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EXAMINER

FERNANDES, CHERYL M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2163

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/645,313	Applicant(s) STEVENSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Cheryl M Fernandes	Art Unit 2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the word "association" is spelt incorrectly in Fig. 1, element 22.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 82 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 82 is misnumbered as claim 79.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 7-18, 40, 47-51 and 58-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 mistakenly refers to itself instead of another claim from which it should depend. Examiner suggests having claim 7 read "The system as defined in Claim 6...".

Claims 47, 48, 49, 58, 59, and 60 recite the limitation "the analyzing strategy", in the claims.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claims 40, 51, and 62 recite the limitation "the natural language text" in the claims.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claim 80 recites the limitation "the hypertext link" in the claim.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Due to the 112 2nd paragraph rejections above, the claims have been treated on their merits as best understood by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 30-38, 41-49, 52-60 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Number 5,764,906 issued to Edelstein et al (hereafter Edelstein).

Referring to claim 30, Edelstein discloses a method (Abstract; col. 4, lines 22-24 and 47-58) of augmenting structured data stored in a source data file ('Resource Alias', Fig. 4, element 402; 'list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4) with unstructured data stored in a reference database ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 4, element 404; Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305; Abstract; see Fig. 5), comprising:

- reading a structured datum ('Resource Alias', Fig. 3, element 302; Fig. 4, element 402; 'Character sequence (Nickname related to Resource Alias)', Fig. 5, elements 506-508; col. 4, line 47 – col. 5, line 31) from a source data file ('list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4; Fig. 5, elements 509 and 511; col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 10; col. 8, lines 25-45);
- locating a reference datum ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 3, element 304; Fig. 4, element 404) in a reference database ('Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305; col. 10, line 62- col. 11, line 20) corresponding to the read structured datum (Fig. 5, elements 508, 510, and 519; see also elements 515 and 516; col. 8, lines 25-36¹);
- generating an association to the read structured datum based upon the located reference datum (col. 8, lines 25-36; see footnote 1); and
- augmenting the source data file with the generated association (col.8, lines 36-38).

Referring to claim 41, Edelstein discloses a system (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 25-45) for associating data in a reference database ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 4, element 404; 'Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305) with structured data in a source data file ('Resource Alias', Fig. 4, element

¹ The Local Server or Central Registry sends back a list of corresponding Resource Aliases that are out of date.

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402; 'list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4), comprising:

- means for reading a structured datum ('Resource Alias', Fig. 3, element 302; Fig. 4, element 402; 'Character sequence (Nickname related to Resource Alias)', Fig. 5, elements 506-508; col. 4, line 47 – col. 5, line 31) from the source database ('list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4; Fig. 5, elements 509 and 511; col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 10; col. 8, lines 25-45);
- means for locating a reference datum ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 3, element 304; Fig. 4, element 404) in a reference database ('Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305; col. 10, line 62- col. 11, line 20) corresponding to the read structured datum (Fig. 5, elements 508, 510, and 519; see also elements 515 and 516; col. 8, lines 25-36; see footnote 1);
- means for generating an association to the read structured datum based upon the located reference datum (col. 8, lines 25-36; see footnote 1); and
- means for augmenting the source data file with the generated association (col.8, lines 36-38).

Referring to claim 52, the limitations of the claim repeat the limitations of claim 41 above in the form of a computer software program ('component program', col. 6, lines 2-6), and are therefore rejected for the same reasons discussed in claim 41.

Referring to claims 31, 32, 42, 43, 53, and 54, Edelstein discloses that the source data file is stored on a network, wherein the network is the Internet (col. 4, lines 21-24).

Referring to claims 33, 44, and 55, Edelstein discloses that locating the reference datum includes locating a uniform resource locator address (col. 7, lines 30-49).

Referring to claims 34, 45, and 56, Edelstein discloses that locating the uniform resource locator address includes locating the uniform resource locator address for an advertisement (col. 3, lines 25-39).

Referring to claims 35, 46, and 57, Edelstein discloses locating a reference datum in a reference database corresponding to the read structured datum and wherein corresponding includes corresponding according to an analyzing strategy (col. 8, lines 25-36; see footnote 1).

Referring to claims 36, 47, and 58, Edelstein discloses locating a first text string in the structured datum and matching a second text string in the reference datum ('character sequence' of nickname, Fig. 5, elements 506, 507, and 509).

Referring to claims 37, 48, and 59, Edelstein discloses locating a first keyword in the structured datum to correspond to a second key word in the reference datum (nickname corresponding to resource alias, Fig. 5, elements 507 and 509).

Referring to claims 38, 49, and 60, Edelstein discloses generating a first identifier to the structured datum and locating a second identifier in the reference datum matching the first identifier (nickname corresponding to resource alias, Fig. 5, elements 507 and 509).

Referring to claim 62, Edelstein discloses retrieving the natural language text from the structured datum (nickname, resource alias, Fig. 5, elements 507 and 509).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-15, 19-29, 63-77, and 79-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edelstein, and further in view of US Patent Number 5,603,025 issued to Tabb et al (hereafter Tabb).

Referring to claim 21, Edelstein discloses a method (Abstract; col. 4, lines 22-24 and 47-58) of augmenting data from a source data file ('Resource Alias', Fig. 4, element 402; 'list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4) with data from a reference database ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 4, element 404; Local Server, 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305), the method comprising:

- retrieving at least one data file including at least one structured datum ('Resource Alias', Fig. 3, element 302; Fig. 4, element 402; 'Character sequence (Nickname related to Resource Alias)', Fig. 5, elements 506-508; col. 4, line 47 – col. 5, line 31) from a first address ('list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4; Fig. 5, elements 507 and 508; col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 7);
- identifying the structured datum ('sequence nickname and resource alias associated with the nickname are identified', see Fig. 5, elements 507 and 508; col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 7);
- locating reference datum ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 3, element 304; Fig. 4, element 404) from a reference database ('Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305; col. 10, line 62- col. 11, line 20) according to the identified structured datum (Fig. 5, elements 508, 510, and 519; see also elements 515 and 516; col. 8, lines 25-36; see footnote 1);

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- augmenting the data file (col.8, lines 36-38); and
- storing the augmented data file at a second address ('updated records stored in Root Server memory', see claim 4, 2nd para. Of Edelstein).

However, while Edelstein discloses all of the above subject matter, it fails to teach:

- generating a hyperlink according to the reference datum; and
- augmenting the data file with the hyperlink.

However, Tabb discloses analogous art that includes:

- generating a hyperlink according to a reference datum (Abstract; Fig. 6A-6E; col. 18, lines 3-44); and
- augmenting a data file with the hyperlink ('hypertext report', Abstract; Summary; Fig. 6A-6E; Fig 7B, 8A-E; col. 17, line 25 – col. 21, line 65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Edelstein to include generating a hyperlink according to a reference datum and augmenting a data file with the hyperlink, as taught by Tabb.

The ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Edelstein per the above for the purpose of drilling down to detailed information of particular interest wherein detailed information which is not of interest is hidden and to allow a user to

employ hypertext features such as Content and Search generation, Browse sequences and Topic breaks (col. 3, line 59 – col. 4, line 4).

Referring to claim 1, Edelstein discloses a system (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 25-45) for augmenting data from a source data file ('Resource Alias', Fig. 4, element 402; 'list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4) with data from a reference database ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 4, element 404; Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305) to generate an augmented data file (col.8, lines 36-38), comprising:

- a reference database ('Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305; col. 10, line 62- col. 11, line 20) including at least one reference datum ('Resource Alias Record', Fig. 3, element 304; Fig. 4, element 404);
- a handler component configured to retrieve a source data file including at least one structured datum ('Resource Alias', Fig. 3, element 302; Fig. 4, element 402; 'Character sequence (Nickname related to Resource Alias)', Fig. 5, elements 506-508; col. 4, line 47 – col. 5, line 31);
- a locator component configured to locate the structured datum in the source data file ('sequence nickname and resource alias associated with the nickname are identified', see Fig. 5, elements 507 and 508; col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 7); and

- an analyzer component configured to associate the identified structured datum to the one reference datum to create an association according to an analyzing strategy (col. 8, lines 25-36; see footnote 1).

However, while Edelstein discloses all of the above subject matter, it fails to teach a generating component configured to:

- generate a hyperlink based upon the association; and
- embed the generated hyperlink in the source data file to create an augmented data file.

However, Tabb discloses analogous art that includes:

- generating a hyperlink based upon an association ('RDBMS table relations', Abstract; Fig. 6A-6E; col. 18, lines 3-44); and
- embedding the generated hyperlink in a source data file to create an augmented data file ('hypertext report', Abstract; Summary; Fig. 6A-6E; Fig 7B, 8A-E; col. 17, line 25 – col. 21, line 65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Edelstein to include generating a hyperlink based upon an association and embedding the generated hyperlink in a source data file to create an augmented data file, as taught by Tabb.

The ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Edelstein per the above for the purpose of drilling down to detailed information of particular interest wherein detailed information which is not of interest is hidden and to allow a user to employ hypertext features such as Content and Search generation, Browse sequences and Topic breaks (col. 3, line 59 – col. 4, line 4).

Referring to claim 63, the limitations of the claim repeat the limitations of claim 1 above in the form of a computer software program ('component program', col. 6, lines 2-6), and are therefore rejected for the same reasons discussed in claim 1. In addition, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the software program augments data from a source data file (Edelstein, 'Resource Alias', Fig. 4, element 402; 'list of locally cached Resource Aliases' in Client, col. 11, lines 21-39, Fig. 4) with data from a reference database (Edelstein, 'Resource Alias Record', Fig. 4, element 404; Local Server', 'Central Registry' or 'Root server' database, Fig. 3, element 301 and 305) to generate an augmented data file (Edelstein, col.8, lines 36-38).

Referring to claims 2, 3, 64, and 65, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the source data file is stored at an address on a network, wherein the network is a public network (Edelstein, col. 4, lines 21-24).

Referring to claims 4 and 66, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the network is the Internet (Edelstein, col. 4, lines 21-24).

Referring to claims 5 and 67, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the structured datum includes a formatted webpage (Edelstein, col. 7, lines 42-49).

Referring to claims 6 and 68, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the reference datum includes a first uniform resource locator address (Edelstein, col. 7, lines 30-49).

Referring to claims 7 and 69, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the first uniform resource locator address is the location of an advertisement (Edelstein, col. 3, lines 25-39).

Referring to claims 8 and 70, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses generating a second identifier associated with the first uniform resource locator address (Edelstein, Nickname; Fig. 5, elements 506 and 507).

Referring to claim 80, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the hyperlink is associated with a user-friendly descriptor, the user-friendly descriptor being associated with the associated first uniform resource locator address (Edelstein, descriptive material, col. 7, lines 30-49).

Referring to claims 9 and 71, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses generating a first identifier based upon the structured datum, locating the second identifier corresponding to the first identifier, and associating the first uniform resource locator address with the structured datum (Edelstein, Fig. 5).

Referring to claims 10 and 72, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the first uniform resource locator address is further associated with a user-friendly descriptor (Edelstein, descriptive material, col. 7, lines 30-49).

Referring to claims 11 and 73, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the first identifier is a first text string (Edelstein, Alias, col. 4, line 59 – col. 5, line 10).

Referring to claims 12 and 74, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the first text string includes keywords (Edelstein, col. 4, line 59 – col. 5, line 31).

Referring to claims 13 and 75, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the second identifier is a second text string (Edelstein, col. 4, line 59 – col. 5, line 31).

Referring to claim 14, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the analyzer component is further configured to locate the second text string according to the first text string (Edelstein, Fig. 5, elements 506-509).

Referring to claim 15, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the analyzer component is further configured to associate the first uniform resource locator address with the first text string (Edelstein, col. 3, lines 43-47).

Referring to claims 76 and 77, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses an analyzing strategy that includes matching the first text string with the second text string and further associating the first resource locator address with the first text string (Edelstein, Fig. 5)

Referring to claim 79, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the analyzer component generates the first identifier by means of a natural language search engine (Edelstein, col. 2, lines 49-62).

Referring to claims 19 and 81, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses saving the augmented file at a desired second uniform resource locator address (Edelstein, col. 8, lines 34-45; claim 4, 2nd paragraph of Edelstein).

Referring to claims 20 and 82, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses displaying the augmented data file when directed to the source data file (Edelstein, col. 11, lines 54-65).

Referring to claim 22, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the first address is on a network (Edelstein, col. 4, lines 21-24).

Referring to claim 23, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses that the network includes at least a portion of the Internet (Edelstein, col. 4, lines 21-24).

Referring to claim 24, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses retrieving a web page (Edelstein, col. 7, lines 42-49).

Referring to claim 25, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses locating a uniform resource locator address (Edelstein, col. 7, lines 30-49).

Referring to claim 26, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses associating the structured datum to a uniform resource locator address (Edelstein, Fig. 5).

Referring to claim 27, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses generating a user-friendly description of the data contained at the uniform locator address (Edelstein, descriptive material, col. 7, lines 30-49).

Referring to claims 28 and 29, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses displaying the augmented data file including the user-friendly name (Edelstein, descriptive material, col. 7, lines 30-54).

4. Claims 16-18 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edelstein in view of Tabb, as applied to claims 9 and 77 above, and further in view of US Patent Number 6,098,065 issued to Skillen et al (hereafter Skillen).

Referring to claims 16 and 78, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb discloses all of the above claimed subject matter, but remains silent as to generating an identifier by means of a "fuzzy expert" search engine.

However, Skillen discloses analogous art that includes generating an identifier by means of a "fuzzy expert" search engine (Skillen, col. 4, lines 14-25; col. 5, lines 29-38; Fig. 2, element 40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the combination of Edelstein/Tabb to include generating an identifier by means of a "fuzzy expert" search engine, as taught by Skillen.

The ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify the combination of Edelstein/Tabb per the above for the purpose of correlating a search argument derived from the user and changes in the argument during a single session to particular data in a database (Skillen, col. 4, lines 14-19).

Referring to claim 17, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb/Skillen discloses that the analyzer component generates the first identifier by means of a natural language search engine (Edelstein, col. 2, lines 49-62).

Referring to claim 18, the combination of Edelstein/Tabb/Skillen discloses that the hypertext link is further associated with a user-friendly descriptor (Edelstein, descriptive material, col. 7, lines 30-49).

5. Claims 39, 40, 50, 51, and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edelstein, as applied to claims 38, 49, and 60, and further in view of Skillen.

Referring to claims 39, 50, and 61, Edelstein discloses all of the above claimed subject matter, but remains silent as to generating an identifier based upon a “fuzzy expert” search engine.

However, Skillen discloses analogous art that includes generating an identifier based upon a “fuzzy expert” search engine (Skillen, col. 4, lines 14-25; col. 5, lines 29-38; Fig. 2, element 40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Edelstein to include generating an identifier based upon a “fuzzy expert” search engine, as taught by Skillen.

The ordinary skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Edelstein per the above for the purpose of correlating a search argument derived from the user and changes in the argument during a single session to particular data in a database (Skillen, col. 4, lines 14-19).

Referring to claims 40 and 51, the combination of Edelstein/Skillen discloses retrieving the natural language text from the structured datum (Edelstein, nickname, resource alias, Fig. 5, elements 507 and 509).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents or publications are cited with respect to the maintenance of URL references within websites:

US Patent Number 6,578,078 issued to Smith et al.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl M Fernandes who can be reached on (571) 272-4018. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 7, 2005
CMF


UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER